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Bangalore Mirror

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UNSHAKEABLE BOND

As bike stunts show no sign of abating, traffic police plan to make offenders sign bonds promising good behaviour, which if broken can land them in serious trouble

PAGE 3

AI, AYE FOR TREES

BBMP uses AI-based tool called Mapathon to plant 8,000 saplings in Bommanahalli zone, gets many more leads on suitable spots across city

PAGE 5

With 5,700 fire mishap cases recorded last March, officials brace for impact this year. It is during this dry and hot month that they receive maximum emergency calls as grass fires tend to spread rapidly

GRASS SPARK THAT IGNITES

Human negligence to blame in most cases, say officials

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As the city transitions from the mild weather of February to the increasing warmth of March, incidents of grass fires are cropping up all around. Fire and Emergency Services are getting ready as last year, March recorded 5,700 fire mishap cases, the highest number of such incidents.

Fire officials warn that most of these blazes originate from grass fires, but spread swiftly due to rising temperatures and parched conditions.

Recently, more than 100 seized vehicles were reduced to ashes in a massive fire that broke out in a ground adjacent to the JDS office. The vehicles, impounded by the police, were parked at Jakkarayanakere ground near Seshadripuram when the blaze erupted in the morning.

Officials suspected that a discarded cigarette may have ignited the dry grass covering the field, triggering the inferno. The fire, which broke out around 11 am, quickly engulfed the parking lot, destroying cars, autorickshaws, and two-wheelers.

“ March is the most challenging month for us. The combination of dry weather, strong winds, and human negligence makes grass fires a major concern

—Yunas Ali Kausar, Fire & Emergency Services Department Director (RFO)

Fire & Emergency Services Department Director (RFO) Yunas Ali Kausar said, “Grass blazes often start from carelessly discarded cigarette butts, unattended bonfires, or spontaneous combustion of dry grass and leaves. March is the most challenging month for us.

The combination of dry weather, strong winds, and human negligence makes grass fires a major concern.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Cuts like a knife

Petition demands removal of spiked fences in public constructions as many have caused lethal injuries to stray animals

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Animal lovers have launched a campaign demanding that the government put a stop to using spiked fences in public construction and also remove the existing ones as such fences pose danger to stray dogs. They said these fences have been causing immense suffering and harm to animals, often resulting in fatal injuries.

PAGE 2
ANIMAL WELFARE MESSAGE IS CLEAR

The CJ Memorial Trust has launched a petition, addressed to BBMP Chief Engineer, on February 28 emphasising on the urgent need to replace spiked fences in public construction. The petition stated that the Bangalore SPCA has already raised concerns about this issue, citing instances where dogs have gotten stuck and impaled on these fences, leading to painful deaths. It stated that the medical cost of recovery for one such cruelly caught dog was over Rs 1.3 lakh apart from three months in a hospital.

The petition proposed immediate

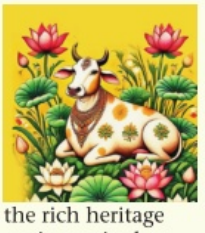
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Play time

AGP World is bringing "Barff (Snow)," a Hindi play written and directed by actor Saurabh Shukla. The play transports viewers to the backdrop of Kashmir during winter, where the lives of three individuals become entangled in a web of unsettling questions. It delves into the heart of human perception, where the lines between truth and belief blur. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: April 6, 7:30 pm**

02 Cultural art



Small World is organising a painting workshop aimed at exploring the traditional art of Pichwai painting. The workshop will focus on creating intricate designs and vibrant colors inspired by the rich heritage of Rajasthan. No prior experience is required as expert instructors will provide guidance. **Where: Small World, Koramangala; When: March 6, 1 pm**

03 Movie magic

Mantri Square Mall is presenting Oblivion, a super reality dome where you experience the magic of a movie from the inside. Movie genres such as fantasy, adventure, action, kids cartoons, and many more are available. **Where: Mantri Square Mall, Malleshwaram; When: March 5 to March 10**

04 Theatre for toddlers

Ranga Shankara's AHA! Production is presenting 'Ee Gida, Aa Mara', which translates to 'This Plant, That Tree'. The play explores the two, and magnifies the microenvironments they house through movement, visuals, and sound. It aims to create an experience for toddlers even before speech has emerged in their life. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: March 9, 11 am and 3:30 pm**

05 Expressive art

Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is presenting 'We don't end at our edges', an immersive exhibition featuring artworks by Ravikumar Kashi **Where: Museum of Art & Photography; When: Opening on March 8**

New campaign educates citizens on animal welfare

Through various strategies and initiatives, BBMP aims to foster empathy and promote coexistence with street animals, particularly stray dogs

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In a significant move to promote animal welfare, and spread awareness about animal laws and rules, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon be installing notice boards in all government offices across the city.

These boards will provide information on animal welfare laws with cruelty definitions, legality on feeding of stray animals (both dogs and cats), preventive measures to avoid dog bites, and important contacts to address conflict situations.

Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner of BBMP's Health and Animal Husbandry Department said that the first step of the initiative will be to install the notice boards in all the government offices. "We plan to approach the offices and ask them to put up these boards with messages about animal welfare. However, given this approach does not materialise, BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department will install them proactively," he said. "We want to educate citizens about animal rights and aim at reducing animal cruelty in Bengaluru," added Suralkar.

According to BBMP, the idea behind the initiative is to spread awareness about issues surrounding animal cruelty, apart from educating citizens about means of peaceful coexistence.

Government offices to display notice boards raising awareness on coexistence

After government offices, the initiative will be extended to private organisations, including schools and colleges, offices, and common areas such as lifts, parks, swimming pools, and clubhouses. Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, said that individual awareness activities conducted by them in association with BBMP, have temporary reach. "There is a larger need to familiarise citizens on the ground, on a day-to-day basis, with preventive measures to avoid animal conflict, and exercising the right behavior to ensure peaceful coexistence," she said.

Last July, BBMP issued guidelines for Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and apartment owners in the city on managing community animals, including pets and stray animals. It came up with the common guidelines after its Animal Husbandry Department received countless complaints from pet owners and community animal caretakers about RWAs arm-twisting residents by bringing in unauthorised rules, by-laws, and stipulations.

Since then, BBMP has been devising various strategies and launching initiatives to help citizens foster empathy and learn coexistence with street animals, particularly stray dogs.

> **"There is a larger need to familiarise citizens on the ground, on a day-to-day basis, with preventive measures to avoid animal conflict**
> – Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust

Following the issuance of guidelines, BBMP Animal Husbandry department kick-started a six-month-long campaign, packed with activities such as flash mobs at malls, street plays in crowded areas, and contests for school children. "These initiatives, including advisory boards in government offices and common areas, are mainly to explain to citizens that we are unknowingly forcing community animals to become aggressive, leading to conflict situations," said an official.

Association demands police probe in paper leak

The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has raised serious concerns over the recent leak of the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) state-level preparatory exam examination question paper, and has urged the state police department to take immediate action. In a letter to the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner, the association alleged that the leak, which violates education regulations and the Information Technology (IT) Act, has led to the widespread circulation of the question paper through YouTube, public domains, and social media platforms, severely impacting students' academic integrity and focus.

BM reported about the issue on March 4

Key issues identified

D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of KAMS said that the leak has significantly impacted students by causing a decline in discipline. He noted that many students have shifted their focus to resorting to unfair means instead of studying, with reports of students preparing cheat sheets, manipulating answer scripts, and engaging in unethical practices. "Repeated incidents of such leaks not only compromise the credibility of public examinations, but also erode public confidence in the school education system," he stated. Additionally, he said that there are strong suspicions that certain individuals within the education department, private training centers, and coaching institutes may have been involved in this malpractice. "Hence, we have formally urged the police to form a special investigative team to conduct a swift probe, identify those responsible, and initiate legal proceedings against them. The association has specifically called for strict action against any government education department employees and coaching center officials found guilty of involvement," he said. **— BMB**

26 lakh fake cards cancelled

A verification of 56 lakh building worker cards in the state has led to the cancellation of 26 lakh fake cards, noted Labour Minister Santosh Lad in the Assembly. Responding to a starred question by MLA Mahesh Tenginakayi, the minister stated that further scrutiny would continue to identify and cancel fake cards. He also informed that since 2022, a total of 1,57,174 applications have been received for marriage assistance, out of which 1,06,091 were approved. He stated that reasons for rejecting applications have been duly recorded. Additionally, the minister announced that Ambedkar Seva Kendras would be launched soon. Vehicles assigned to these centers will visit applicants' homes for verification and provide recommendations accordingly. **— BMB**

Movement restricted on Hosur Road flyover

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will be undertaking major maintenance work on the Hosur main road elevated flyover, leading to temporary restrictions on traffic. Starting from the night of Wednesday at 11 pm until 6 am the next day, all types of vehicular movement will be prohibited on both sides of the flyover. Vehicles will not be allowed to pass from Silk Board towards Electronic City, and vice versa, until further notice. Shivaprakash Devaraju, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic South Division, informed that even though there are restrictions for movement on the flyover at night, it will remain open for all vehicles during the daytime, between 6 am to 11 pm. **— BMB**

This is a bond no wheelie expert can wriggle out of

Auto driver in dock for flaunting stunt expertise; police to now make offenders sign bonds promising good behaviour

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The KR Puram Traffic Police caught an auto driver performing a wheelie on the KR Puram Hanging Bridge Road under the Sampura Police Station limits during an check on Tuesday.

The incident came to light when the driver himself posted a video of the act on social media, drawing widespread attention. Acting swiftly, the police tracked down the auto and its driver, and registered an FIR, the first against an auto driver in such an offence.

The traffic police are set to impose stricter measures against repeat offenders. Apart from imposing fines, authorities will now require habitual violators to sign bonds under Sections 107 and 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). If these bonds are breached, strict legal action will be taken, officials confirmed.

On social media platform X Joint commissioner of Police (traffic) MN Anucheth posted a message: "Special notice from Bengaluru Police. We hereby instruct all two wheeler riders not to indulge in two wheeler and track racing as these cases as its a criminal offense whoever is indulged in such offenses they will be booked under wheeling and track racing, they will be booked under relevant law, their RC will be sent for cancellation, DL will be sent for suspension apart from this if person is found underage or without DL the concerned vehicle owner or guardian will be booked under criminal offence, apart from this security proceedings will be initiated against this indulging in wheeling or track racing, a bond will be taken from such offenders and if repeat offence happen the bond will be forfeited..."

The move comes in response to the increasing number of cases where riders, primarily between the ages of 16 and 25 years, engage in dangerous stunts.

The bond

Sections 107 and 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) empower a magistrate to order an individual to execute a bond to maintain peace or exhibit good behaviour. While these sections do not grant police the authority to make arrests, they do allow them to take a personal interim bond. A magistrate can issue a bond order in writing, specifying the reason based on received information.
The order also details the bond amount, its duration, and the required number, type, and class of sureties. An executive magistrate can issue such an order if they believe a person is likely to disturb public peace or commit a wrongful act.

Offenders under watch

Recently, traffic police in West Division launched a crackdown on reckless wheeling stunts following back-to-back incidents on Suvarna Layout Service Road, Nagarbhavi Ring Road. Two cases have been registered in Byatarayanapura Traffic Police Station against scooter riders engaging in life-threatening stunts on busy roads.

On March 2, an FIR was registered against a scooter rider who was caught performing dangerous wheelies. Police also formed teams to identify and act against stunt riders across the Traffic West Division.

On March 3, another scooter rider was found wheeling recklessly on the same stretch. The police promptly registered an FIR.

Stronger deterrent

Citizens too reported such incidents on social media, tagging the traffic police. One user stated, "Sir, in my area, locals are performing stunts like wheeling, and no action has been taken. They also speed recklessly in public spaces." Several othshared videos, pictures, and vehicle numbers.

Patient faces sexual assault

A psychiatric patient admitted to NIMHANS was allegedly sexually assaulted by his caretaker inside the hospital ward. The Siddapura police have registered a case. Sources said the 22-year-old man was admitted to NIMHANS on February 27 for treatment. He was placed in the psychiatric ward, where a caretaker named Malik, appointed through Shubham's agency, was assigned to look after him. The patient later alleged that Malik took advantage of his vulnerable state, threatened him, and sexually assaulted him.

11-year-old girl raped

A 11-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by two youths from her neighbourhood in Anekal. The third-grade student at a government school was attacked while returning home for lunch two days ago.

According to the complaint, the accused threatened her with a knife. The victim's statement, recorded by Child Protection Officer Asha, details a terrifying ordeal where she was forcibly taken to a nearby house and assaulted. Medical examinations confirmed injuries to her private parts, including cigarette burns.

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₹5k-cr water and flood revamp

Project aims to tackle urban flooding, water scarcity, and disaster resilience

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Facing a paradoxical crisis of floods and groundwater depletion, Bengaluru is set to undergo a major transformation with the implementation of a Rs 5,000 crore project funded by the World Bank. The initiative, aimed at addressing the city's dual challenges of excessive rainfall and water shortages, is scheduled to launch on April 1.

BWSSB plans to set up nine sewage treatment plans with a combined capacity of 148 MLD

Urgent need for action

A BWSSB official said, "Rapid urbanisation and climate change have intensified Bengaluru's vulnerability to flooding while simultaneously exacerbating water scarcity. The city has been struggling with deteriorating stormwater drainage systems, poor maintenance, traffic disruptions, public health concerns, and significant economic losses. The flooding crisis also impacts neighbouring districts, making a long-term solution imperative. To address these issues, the Karnataka government has partnered with the World Bank to introduce the Karnataka Water Security and Disaster Resilience Program. This comprehensive initiative focuses on improving rainwater management infrastructure, constructing efficient drainage systems, treating and reusing wastewater, and strengthening local disaster management agencies."

Breakdown of funding

According to officials, the Rs 5,000 crore project will be primarily financed through a Rs 3,500 crore loan from the World Bank, with the Karnataka government contributing Rs 1,500 crore. Among the key allocations, the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) will receive Rs 1,700 crore from the World Bank and Rs 300 crore from the state government. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will be funded with Rs 1,000 crore from the World Bank and Rs 70 crore from the state government. The Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) will secure Rs 550 crore from the World Bank, supplemented by Rs 1,130 crore from the state's disaster relief fund. Additionally, the Minor Irrigation Department will receive Rs 250 crore from the World Bank to support its initiatives.

Key infrastructure plans

The project encompasses multiple infrastructure upgrades aimed at enhancing urban resilience and water management. Stormwater drainage improvements include the construction of 195 km of new drains, reinforcement of 173.90 km of existing ones, and stone-lining for 80 km of drainage networks. To mitigate flooding, flood control infrastructure such as RCC retaining walls, U-shaped drains, culverts, and other structural enhancements will be developed. In terms of wastewater treatment, the BWSSB will establish nine sewage treatment plants with a total capacity of 148 MLD. Additionally, sewage infrastructure upgrades will involve laying 415 km of underground drainage networks across five city zones, supported by intermediary sewage pumping stations. Disaster preparedness efforts include upgrading the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre to international standards, strengthening emergency operation centres in 15 districts, and implementing landslide mitigation measures. Lastly, the project will focus on water security through minor irrigation initiatives, including the diversion of 0.7361 TMC of water from Gopalapura Lake to recharge 41 lakes in Bengaluru.

> **"City has been struggling with deteriorating stormwater drainage systems, public health concerns & economic losses** – BWSSB official

Road repair in demand

Potholes, uneven surfaces, and waterlogging make travel unsafe, residents demand for action

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A couple of teenagers from Mantri Espana near Kariyammana Agrahara, Bellandur, have launched an online petition urging authorities to repair a severely damaged road. They stated that for nearly a year, the Outer Ring Road stretch connecting Bellandur Lake Road and Marathahalli has been in a state of disrepair, despite being a vital route for thousands of daily commuters. According to them, Kariyammana Agrahara Road is riddled with deep potholes, uneven surfaces, and dangerously deteriorated patches, posing serious safety risks and causing daily hardship for motorists.

Anushka Bharggav from Inventure Academy, one of the teenagers who launched the petition, said that this is not just an inconvenience; it's a serious safety issue. A group of residents staged a protest on Wednesday demanding the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) authorities to fix the problems.

"Outside Sakra Hospital, ambulances and emergency vehicles are facing delays due to the broken roads. Heavy rains make the situation worse, further obstructing emergency services. Senior citizens struggle to walk as footpaths are either broken or non-existent," said Anushka.

(Left) The Condition of the road; (Above) A group of residents staging a protest on Wednesday morning

Sriya Gummadi from Greenwood High, one of the petition's signatories, said, "Bikers swerving to avoid potholes often come dangerously close to pedestrians, increasing the risk of accidents. During the monsoon, severe waterlogging further disrupts travel, making it difficult for students like me to reach school and for residents to access essential services. Given these pressing issues, I urge the authorities to take immediate action to repair and maintain the road."

Nalini Bharggav, a resident, said that those living in Mantri Espana and neighbouring apartments are deeply distressed. "Despite raising this issue with BBMP earlier, no concrete action has been taken, leaving us with no choice but to consider public protests. I have personally experienced multiple instances where my vehicle's bumper was damaged, even while driving cautiously. The combination of poor roads and heavy traffic has made commuting a daily struggle," she said.

Expressing the similar opinion, Ankur Agrawal, President of Mantri Espana Residential Apartment Owners Association, said the condition of the road has been extremely poor for almost a year now. "While a few residents have independently raised this issue, and we were promised white topping, the work has not progressed due to unknown reasons. A few months ago, following similar protests and signature campaigns across various social media platforms, road repairs were promised. Traffic advisories were issued, and this section of the road was temporarily closed, with traffic diverted. However, only a very small portion of the road was repaired, leaving the major choke points completely unattended," he said.

However, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer said the asphalting of the road will be taken up after the completion of the pending work by the storm water drains department.

REST IN PEACE

14.11.1991 05.03.2025

GOPAL RAMANNA

We at Unosafe Elevator are deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Gopal, one of the finest Technical Managers. He was a great person who dedicated his life to training and mentoring numerous technicians. His invaluable contributions will always be remembered. Our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his soul rest in peace.

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Unsafe path

CV Raman Nagar

The road behind Bagmane Tech Park, CV Raman Nagar is covered in construction debris.

Pedestrian risk

Indiranagar

A damaged footpath on 80ft Road, opposite Olive Hotel, beside George Thangachan Building, poses a risk to pedestrians.

Property violation

Horamavu Signal

A fruit shop has encroached on land next to Jayanthi Hotel near Horamavu Signal.

BBMP's AI 'Mapathon' roots 8,000 saplings in B'luru

Tech-driven initiative is identifying plantation sites across Bengaluru, with plans to plant 50,000 more saplings this year; experts stress need for native species and better maintenance to ensure survival

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) idea to leverage technology to bring back Bengaluru's green cover appears to be gaining traction.

Its AI-based tool called Mapathon has led to the planting of 8,000 saplings just in the Bommanahalli zone, with many more leads on spots suitable for plantation from across the city.

"We have planted 8,000 saplings in Bommanahalli and, after this successful trial, will be extending it to the rest of the city. The Forest Department is receiving many locations from citizens through the tool, and a decent land bank is already in place," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest from the BBMP Forest.

According to the officials, the satellite-based technology has paved the way to plant at least 50,000 more saplings this year in many parts of the city.

City-based tree activists say the Palike should focus on native species for plantation activity. Moreover, with summer approaching, the challenge of maintaining a healthy survival rate for the saplings should also be considered.

"While native trees might not be fast-growing, their role in maintaining healthy biodiversity cannot be ignored. The plantation should be done scientifically, with due consideration for existing biodiversity. With summer approaching, the Forest Department should consider revisiting its sapling maintenance guidelines to ensure that the majority of the young trees survive," said an environmentalist.

> **While native trees might not be fast-growing, their role in maintaining biodiversity cannot be ignored** –Environmenalist

The AI-based tool was launched in May 2023 by BBMP to meet its compensatory afforestation targets.

Under the Mapathon initiative, open spaces suitable for plantations are identified by citizens and marked on the AI tool. The marked area is then visited by the Forest department or citizen volunteers to analyse the feasibility based on land type. BBMP goes ahead with planting saplings in the case of government land. However, if the land highlighted is private, officials explore the option to collaborate with the owner before going ahead with the plantation.

The initiative is part of the Bengaluru Climate Action Cell.

BM WoW Week
Your Chance to WIN today
Which song did Zedd remix for Justin Bieber?
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Complaint filed against rapper for defamation

Akhil Bharat Veerashaiva Mahasabha has accused rapper Karan of insulting the Lingayat community in his latest song, which was released on YouTube. The organisation has expressed strong displeasure and is preparing to file a complaint against him.

BR Naveen Kumar, a representative of the Mahasabha, stated that the song contains a derogatory word linked to the Lingayat community. He emphasised that the lyrics are offensive and disrespectful, sparking outrage among community members.

Following the backlash, the Mahasabha has decided to lodge a formal complaint at Sadashivanagar police station, seeking action against the rapper for defaming the community.

Meanwhile, police officials have confirmed that they have received a petition regarding the matter. "We have received the complaint and are currently investigating. If the content is found to be offensive, necessary action will be taken," a police spokesperson stated. —BMB

Petition opposes Bar Council tenure

A petition has been lodged in the Karnataka High Court requesting the Bar Council of India to dissolve the current Karnataka State Bar Council office, which completed its five-year statutory tenure in June 2023. Justice M Nagaprasanna, hearing Advocate Rahmatulla Kotwal's petition, directed the petitioner to serve copies to respondents and scheduled further hearing for Tuesday.

The petition states that the current State Bar Council officials, elected in 2018, completed their five-year term in June 2023. It challenges the BCI's extension notification as unjustified and contrary to the Advocates Act 1961. The petitioner seeks directions for the BCI to address the representation dated January 7, 2025, requesting election scheduling per Section 8 of the Advocates Act 1961.

According to Section 8A of the Advocates Act 1961, the BCI must establish a special committee to conduct elections if they aren't held before term expiry. However, the BCI issued a notification on June 23, 2023, extending the current office bearers' tenure by 18 months without legal foundation.

The petition argues that this notification contradicts Sections 8 and 8A of the Advocates Act 1961 and Supreme Court precedents requiring Bar Council elections every five years, with extensions not exceeding six months. It contends that the term extension is unlawful, depriving advocates of their right to elect representatives.

The extension, supposedly justified to prevent fraudulent and non-practising advocates from participating, is deemed legally unsustainable and an unreasonable restriction on qualified advocates' electoral rights. The petition suggests the Bar Council is becoming controlled by individuals opposing fair elections, seeking to illegally maintain control of the Council office. —BMB

Court refuses to halt prosecution sanction

The Karnataka High Court has declined to intervene in the State government's prosecution sanction against former Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner V Shankar and two others. The case involves alleged misconduct in official duties, where they purportedly assisted the then Chief Secretary's mother in acquiring two acres of government land through fraudulent records.

The court noted that the accused individuals had, on initial examination, engaged in document creation and processed land records contrary to governmental regulations.

The court determined that these contested matters should be resolved during trial proceedings. The accused had sought to challenge a 2016 complaint by Bhaskaran, the subsequent Lokayukta police charge sheet, and the government's 2022 prosecution sanction. The allegations stated that the accused assisted Tarabai Maruthi Rao Jadhav, mother of Arvind Jadhav, in acquiring government land in Ramanayakanahalli village, Sarjapura hobli, Anekal taluk through fabricated documents and illegal land record modifications.

'History and classic example'

The court's examination revealed that "it is a classic example how podi (division of land) work was done without an application either by the mother of the then Chief Secretary or by the original grantee. It is a history in the Revenue Department making the podi within three months and it appears to be this is the one podi work which was done in the entire State within a span of three months...", the court noted. —BMB

Murder convict's death sentence reduced

The Supreme Court has modified the death penalty of a man to life imprisonment for murdering his two children, mother-in-law and sister-in-law. The convict had filed Criminal Appeals challenging the Karnataka High Court's judgment that upheld his conviction and death sentence.

"We direct that the hangman's noose be taken off the appellant-convict's neck, and instead that he remains in prison till the end of his days given by God Almighty," stated the three-judge Bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sanjay Karol, and Justice Sandeep Mehta. The Bench considered the convict's clean criminal record, positive relationship with victims, and inadequate consideration of mitigating factors by the Trial Court.

Case background

The convict, a Punjab National Bank manager, was married to a State Bank of Mysore employee with whom he had two children aged 10 and 3½ years. He disapproved of his sister-in-law's romantic relationship with her Provident Fund office colleague. After failed attempts to influence his wife to intervene, he allegedly killed his mother-in-law, sister-in-law, and children, concealing bodies in his house's sump tank and garden tank.

Bengaluru brigade dominates Indian Turf invitation cup

Top trainers and jockeys from Bengaluru steal the show, clinching three of the four major titles in a spectacular weekend of racing

Ikram Khan
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@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The proud owners of Redefined pose with the big boy from Bengaluru after his victory in the Indian Turf Invitation Cup in Chennai

You got to doff your hat to the Bengaluru contingent. The top horses under the care of leading trainers at this premier centre dominated the two-day racing extravaganza in Chennai, winning most of the marquee events, including the Champion of Champions race—the HPSL Royal Arion Indian Turf Invitation Cup.

Many racing enthusiasts and seasoned experts had predicted that the Mumbai brigade, led by Western India's champion trainer Pesi Shroff, would call the shots at Guindy. However, the Bengaluru team stole the show, winning three of the four major events and securing nine victories out of the 16 races over the weekend.

Champion trainer Prasanna Kumar emerged as the standout professional, leading in four winners during the carnival, including the prestigious Indian Turf Invitation Cup. Redefined, from his yard, smarting from a narrow defeat to Ranquelino in the Bangalore Winter Derby, settled the score in emphatic fashion. The horse, meticulously prepared by Prasanna, galloped home in style to etch his name in the Hall of Fame.

Top Irish jockey David Allan, who was trusted with Redefined fortunes, revealed that Prasanna had left no stone unturned in getting the horse in peak condition for the big event. "I always knew he was one of the best on the circuit. He won the Pune Derby, beating Mumbai's top hope, Santissimo, before finishing second to Ranquelino in the Bangalore Derby. Given the setback he had in

Bengaluru contingent stamped its authority at the two-day racing extravaganza in Chennai, winning most of the marquee events, including the prestigious Indian Turf Invitation Cup

training, his progress has been remarkable," said Prasanna. "He improved steadily, peaked at the right time, and proved to be the best racing horse in the country."

A delighted Prasanna noted that Redefined was his first runner in the Indian Turf Invitation Cup, making the victory even more special. "It's an incredible feeling to stand on the podium with my first-ever runner in this elite race. Credit goes to my owners and support staff who made it possible," he said, also lauding David Allan's performance. "David is one of the top jockeys in English racing, and his near-perfect ride proved decisive."

The Bengaluru brigade also shone in the Maj PK Mehra Memorial Super Mile, where Satish Narredu-trained Shamrock, brilliantly ridden by Suraj Narredu, triumphed over fancied contenders Santissimo and African Gold. Suraj also guided Perfect Legend to a smashing victory in the RCTC Club Million. "Initially, we considered entering Shamrock in the Suresh Mahindra Multi-Million over seven furlongs, but Suraj insisted on trying the Super Mile—and he was right," said Satish Narredu.

Prasanna continued his dominance in the Suresh Mahindra Million, orchestrating a stunning 1-2-3 finish. Knotty Charmer emerged victorious in a thrilling race, beating stablemates Prana and Siege Courageous.

Beyond the trainers and jockeys, racehorse owner Ashok Ranpise registered a unique feat in Indian racing history. He led Redefined to victory in the Champion of Champions event, having already won four Derby titles in four different centres—Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai—within four months, achieving a rare Grand Slam. To cap it off, Ashok led in five classic winners in a row, earning himself a place in the Hall of Fame.

"I was confident that my two horses, Redefined and Ranquelino, would finish 1-2 in the classic. Unfortunately, it was an off day for Ranquelino, the Bengaluru and Mumbai Derby winner. But to my luck, Redefined delivered a stellar performance," said Ashok, ready to celebrate his historic achievement.

The Bengaluru contingent's dominance at Guindy was a testament to their superior preparation, exceptional horsemanship, and the talent of their equine stars.

Brewers seek fair rules

Pointing to increasing arbitrariness in beer regulations in Karnataka, the Brewers Association of India (BAI) has alleged that the state government is favouring certain companies while processing applications for rounding off the Declared Price (DP).

In a statement, BAI said the government introduced rounding off DP to the nearest Rs 5 but was not applying the rule uniformly. "Our member companies, which are among the biggest investors and contributors to state revenue, feel discriminated against," it said, demanding a level playing field.

BAI Director General Vinod Giri expressed concern over inconsistent excise rules, frequent tax hikes, and arbitrary mandates on labelling, which he said were hurting the industry. "If such arbitrariness continues, our members may have to rethink their investments in Karnataka," he warned.

BAI urged the government to ensure fairness, stating that biased policies could harm investment in the state. **–BMB**

Hydrogen plan unveiled

Energy Minister KJ George announced that Karnataka is in talks with an Australian company for a pilot project on green hydrogen production in Mangaluru and Karwar. Responding to a query by Council member Ivan D'Souza, he said, "Green hydrogen is the future of energy. We have identified Mangaluru and Karwar for the project, where hydrogen will be produced, stored in containers, and transported via ships to other states and countries."

The minister highlighted efforts to boost renewable energy, including a Rs 10,000 crore plan to install solar rooftops in all panchayats to address their Rs 6,000 crore dues to the Energy Department.

A new 2,000 MW power plant is planned near Pavagada, with additional solar projects in Raichur, Vijayapura, and Gadag. **–BMB**

800+ drivers seek mercy killing alleging harassment by aggregator firm

More than 800 drivers have written to President Droupadi Murmu seeking mercy killing, citing harassment by an online aggregator company. The drivers allege that the company has been charging exorbitant commissions ranging from 20% to 25% and blacklisting those who oppose its policies, effectively cutting off their source of livelihood for days.

Once blacklisted, drivers struggle to secure rentals for up to six days. On Tuesday, the aggrieved drivers submitted a formal complaint to the Joint Commissioner of the Transport Department C Mallikarjuna, urging the government to take action.

Allegations

The protesting drivers claim that Porter, which launched operations in Bengaluru in 2014, initially charged a 0% commission but gradually increased it to 5%. They allege that now the company is unlawfully charging commissions as high as 25% despite the prescribed cap being 5%. Furthermore, they assert that Porter does not possess the necessary aggregator licence to operate legally.

Federation is demanding an ordinance to ban bike taxis and stricter regulation of aggregator firms under a "one city, one fare" policy

Key demands

The Karnataka State Private Transport Organisations Federation has reiterated its demands to the government, emphasising the urgency of resolving key issues in the private transport sector. The Federation has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to address four critical demands during the ongoing Legislative Assembly session

One of the primary concerns raised by the Federation is the demand for an ordinance to ban bike taxis; another demand is the strict regulation of aggregator companies through the implementation of a "one city, one fare" policy. The Federation is advocating for a legal framework to regulate online goods transport services.

Growing distress

Despite repeated appeals to the Transport Department, drivers claim that their concerns have largely been ignored. The unauthorised operations of bike taxis, the exploitative commission system by aggregators, and the absence of strict fare regulations have significantly impacted their livelihoods. They fear continued inaction will only worsen the situation, pushing many to extreme measures like seeking mercy killing.

–Sanjana CS

8-hour swim to escape

Karnataka fisherman Mahesh Vithal Salgaonkar (45) swam for nearly eight and a half hours to reach shore after jumping into the Arabian Sea to escape an attack on his boat. He has been admitted to Karwar District Hospital. On Monday night, Mahesh went fishing alone in a traditional boat when he was confronted by a group of fishermen from Mangaluru. They attempted to seize his vessel and net. Realising the danger, he called his wife in fear for his life, then leapt into the sea. His wife alerted authorities, who launched a search operation. After swimming through the night, he reached Canacona Beach in Goa at 5:30 am. Local fishermen found him and took him to the hospital, and others recovered his boat. **–BMB**

Actress Ranya Rao strapped gold bars to thighs to smuggle them in

The arrest of Kannada film actress Ranya Rao, daughter of a senior IPS officer in Karnataka, has exposed a major gold smuggling operation in India. Investigations by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) revealed that the 31-year-old actress used an unusual method to evade security checks — she attached 14 gold bars to her thighs using adhesive, wrapped them with tape, and concealed them under a crepe bandage.

Officials described her arrest as one of the biggest breakthroughs in recent gold smuggling cases.

So far, authorities have seized 17.29 kg of gold and cash in the case. This includes 14.8 kg of gold worth Rs 12.56 crore recovered at the airport, Rs 2.06 crore worth of gold from her Bengaluru residence, and apart from that Rs 2.67 crore in cash.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said that the investigation is ongoing and assured that the law applies equally to everyone.

"The investigation is underway. The DRI is handling the case, and until they come out with definite information, I will not be able to comment. Let them complete their investigation. Since the DRI is a Central agency, I cannot say anything. However, I have asked the department to look into it internally, and they will definitely get some information," Parameshwara told reporters.

- Agencies

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5,700 fire incidents in March last year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2024

According to data from the Fire and Emergency Services, the department received 23,832 fire calls in 2024, with 18,900 occurring between January and May. The onset of summer typically leads to a rise in fire incidents.

From January to May, there was an intense surge in emergencies, averaging 3,780 fire calls per month—translating to nearly 126 incidents every single day. As summer peaks, fire-related cases soar, keeping firefighters on high alert. (March recorded the highest number of fire calls (5,700), followed by February (4,800), April (4,700), January (2,000), and May (1,700). The lowest number of calls was reported in June and July, with 400 incidents each.)

In contrast, the latter half of the year, from June to December, sees a significant drop in fire incidents. The department receives an average of 705 calls per month, with just 24 cases reported daily.

In the previous year, fire accidents claimed 48 lives across the state, leaving 201 people injured. Property damage from these incidents exceeded Rs 330 crore. Bengaluru alone accounted for 2,947 fire calls, resulting in 13 fatalities and multiple injuries.

However the number of cases reported due to grass fire is unknown but fire officials attribute "the spike in incidents primarily to the proliferation of grass fires, which spread rapidly and unpredictably, often posing a significant threat to nearby residential areas".

The dry, parched landscapes that fringe Bengaluru's urban sprawl have become tinderboxes, ready to ignite at the slightest provocation. Kausar explains that other causes include electrical short-circuits, while there is a decline in fire incidents due to gas cylinder and LPG leaks, industrial fires etc.

Human negligence to blame?

Officials suggest that many of these fires are preventable. Careless littering of burning materials, open burning of garbage, and setting dry grass ablaze for clearing land have all contributed to the growing crisis. "People don't realise that a small spark can turn into a disaster within seconds. Once the fire spreads, it becomes a challenge to control," added the fire officer.

"Many people are unaware of the speed at which a grass fire can spread," the officer added. "What starts as a small, controlled burn can quickly become an uncontrollable blaze, especially when wind is a factor."

The fire department conducts an awareness campaign on Saturdays at schools hoping students will learn and pass on the message to their parents. Fire & Emergency Services Department Director TN Shivashankar explained, "To prevent grass fire incidents, always dispose of cigarettes properly, never leave open flames unattended, regularly maintain equipment, monitor dry weather conditions, keep grass trimmed, avoid parking on dry grass, and clear debris from your property, especially during hot, dry periods when the risk of fire is heightened."

Fatal fences

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

actions including ensuring that all fences around the city, especially in public parks and buildings, have smooth edges and no spikes.

"If spikes are already present, weld and file them away immediately for safety. The authorities have to incorporate designs that prioritise animal and human safety in BBMP and PWD engineering manuals.

We are happy to provide examples of humane fence designs," the petition read.

They emphasised that it is crucial that BBMP takes a strong stance on this issue.

About the spiked fences in and around Cubbon Park, Tanya Bhat, an animal lover from Cooke Town, said the design of the existing fence is wrong. "The fence at Cubbon Park must be redesigned as it is dangerous to stray dogs," said Bhat.

The SPCA, based on a complaint dated January 11, 2024, from CJ Memorial Trust, wrote a letter to the Deputy Director (Cubbon Park), Horticulture Department on January 12, to take measures to replace spiked fences in Cubbon Park.

Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, Managing Trustee of CJ Memorial Trust, said that it is important to not only resolve this present issue now (by welding out the sharp spikes)on a war footing but also to ensure that any future construction precludes and bars cruel spikes.

"All agencies like BBMP, PWD, SPCA, KAWB, and contractors associations should come together to incorporate this design and understand that we are breaching animal cruelty laws.

No excuses about lack of responsibility or funds. It just has to be done and as early as possible as lives are at stake," she said.

She said that there have been many in the city including cats and dogs that have jumped and fallen on spikes. "It is horrific to see such suffering, but I can share the ones at Cubbon Park . The Cubbon team rescued four, who survived being ripped by the spikes and one ran away despite a 10-day hunt," she said.

Kusuma G, Deputy Director (Cubbon Park), Horticulture Department, told BM the filing down of spikes on fences will be done in phases.

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I, Chokkalingam Chettiar Balachokkalingam Chettiar R/o #41 Siddegowda Street Doddamavalli Bangalore South-560004 have changed my name to Chokalingam.

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I Parveen Taj W/O, Ziyaulla Mohiddin Shaikh R/o Ward No 10 Thanjavar Mohalla Near Alhuda School, Kunigal Town, Tumakuru - 572130 have changed my name to Parveena Khanum.

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APR: 13*, 20* 20, 27* MAY: 3, 9, 11*, 15, 23, 24* JUN: 1*, 2, 8, 8* 19
KASHI AYODHYA/BADRI KEDAR* 14*/21 DAYS
APRIL: 22, 27, 29* MAY: 3, 9, 10*, 15, 16*, 21, 22*, 28* JUN: 2, 8, 9*
CHAR DHAM 19 DAYS:
MAY 20, 26 JUN: 1, 7, 13, 17, 24 JUL: 1
SHIMLA MANALI/MUSSOORIE NAINITAL* 15/14* DAYS
APR: 2, 14*

PRIME PROPERTY

Commercial / Industrial property REQUIRED FOR RENTAL

A Commercial or Industrial properties is needed for a New Car Showroom & Service Centre for Automobile.

The desired locations for **Showroom** at **ELECTRONIC CITY & BOMMASANDRA. The total built-up area required is 6000 sft with car parking.**

Service at **JAYANAGAR, JP NAGAR & BANASHANKARI. The total area required is 35000 sft, (Shed area of 20000 sft & open land area of 15000 sft).**

Land is available, required Commercial or Industrial Converted property

Interested owners, please contact, Arunkumar, on mob no.
9100666050 / 9901153111

HEALTH TIP: Avoid refined carbs, sugary foods, and fried snacks that cause sudden blood sugar elevations

Healthy fats, including nuts, seeds, avocados, and olive oil, can improve insulin sensitivity and reduce inflammation

BangaloreMirror | 9
Thursday, March 6, 2025
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ENGINES OF LIFE

Machine learning tools could help scientists design new enzymes to tackle disease and climate change

Enzymes are molecular machines that carry out the chemical reactions that sustain all life, an ability that has captured the attention of scientists like me.

Consider muscle movement. Your body releases a molecule called acetylcholine to trigger your muscle cells to contract. If acetylcholine sticks around for too long, it can paralyze your muscles – including your heart muscle cells – and, well, that's that. This is where the enzyme acetylcholinesterase comes in. This enzyme can break down thousands of acetylcholine molecules per second to ensure muscle contraction is stopped, paralysis avoided and life continued. Without this enzyme, it would take a month for a molecule of acetylcholine to break down on its own – about 10 billion times slower.

You can imagine why enzymes are of particular interest to scientists looking to solve modern problems. What if there were a way to break down plastic, capture carbon dioxide or destroy cancer cells as fast as acetylcholinesterase breaks down acetylcholine? If the world needs to take action quickly, enzymes are a compelling candidate for the job – if only researchers could design them to handle those challenges on demand.

Designing enzymes, unfortunately, is very hard. It's like working with an atom-sized Lego set, but the instructions are lost and the thing won't hold together unless it's assembled perfectly. Newly published research from our team suggests that machine learning can act as the architect on this Lego set, helping scientists build these complex molecular structures accurately.

What's an enzyme?

Let's take a closer look at what makes up an enzyme.

Enzymes are proteins – large molecules that do the behind-the-scenes work that keep all living things alive. These proteins are made up of amino acids, a set of building blocks that can be stitched together to form long strings that get knotted up into specific shapes.

The specific structure of a protein is key to its function in the same way that the shapes of everyday objects are. For example, much like a spoon is designed to hold liquid in a way that a knife simply can't, the enzymes involved in moving your muscles aren't well suited for photosynthesis in plants.

For an enzyme to function, it adopts a shape that perfectly matches the molecule it processes, much like a lock matches a key. The unique grooves in the enzyme – the lock – that interact with the target molecule – the key – are found in a region of the enzyme known as the active site.

The active site of the enzyme precisely orients amino acids to interact with the target molecule when it enters. This makes it easier for the molecule to undergo a chemical reaction to turn into a different one, making the process go faster. After the chemical reaction is done, the new molecule is released and the enzyme is ready to process another.

How do you design an enzyme?

Scientists have spent decades trying to design their own enzymes to make new molecules, materials or therapeutics. But making enzymes that look like and go as fast as those found in nature is incredibly difficult.

Enzymes have complex, irregular shapes that are made up of hundreds of amino acids. Each of these building blocks needs to be placed perfectly or else the enzyme will slow down or completely shut off. The difference between a speed racer and slowpoke enzyme can be a distance of less than the width of a single atom.

Initially, scientists focused on modifying the amino acid sequences of existing enzymes to improve their speed or stability. Early successes with this approach primarily improved the stability of enzymes, enabling them to catalyze chemical reactions at a higher range of temperatures. But this approach was less useful for improving the speed of enzymes. To this day, designing new enzymes by modifying individual amino acids is generally not an effective way to improve natural enzymes.

Researchers found that using a process called directed evolution, in which the amino acid sequence of an enzyme is randomly changed until it can perform a desired function, proved much more fruitful. For example, studies have shown that directed evolution can improve chemical reaction speed, thermostability, and even generate enzymes with properties that aren't seen in nature. However, this approach is typically labor-intensive: You have to screen many mutants to find one that does what you want. In some cases, if there's no good enzyme to start from, this method can fail to work at all.

Both of these approaches are limited by their reliance on natural enzymes. That is, restricting your design to the shapes of natural proteins likely limits the kinds of chemistry that enzymes can facilitate. Remember, you can't eat soup with a knife.

Is it possible to make enzymes from scratch, rather than modify nature's recipe? Yes, with computers.

Designing enzymes with computers

The first attempts to computationally design enzymes still largely relied on natural enzymes as a starting point, focusing on placing enzyme active sites into natural proteins.

This approach is akin to trying to find a suit at a thrift store: It is unlikely you will find a perfect fit because the geometry of an enzyme's active site (your body in this analogy) is highly specific, so a random protein with a rigidly fixed structure (a suit with random measurements) is unlikely to perfectly accommodate it. The resulting enzymes from these efforts performed much more slowly than those found in nature, requiring further optimization with directed evolution to reach speeds common among natural enzymes.

Recent advances in deep learning have dramatically changed the landscape of designing enzymes with computers. Enzymes can now be generated in much the same way that AI models such as ChatGPT and DALL-E generate text or images, and you don't need to use native protein structures to support your active site.

Our team showed that when we prompt an AI model, called RFdiffusion, with the structure and amino acid sequence of an active site, it can generate the rest of the enzyme structure that would perfectly support it. This is equivalent to prompting ChatGPT to write an entire short story based on a prompt that only says to include the line "And sadly, the eggs never showed up."

We used this AI model specifically to generate enzymes called serine hydrolases, a group of proteins that have potential applications in medicine and plastic recycling. After designing the enzymes, we mixed them with their intended molecular target to see whether they could catalyze its breakdown. Encouragingly, many of the designs we tested were able to break down the molecule, and better than previously designed enzymes for the same reaction.

To see how accurate our computational designs were, we used a method called X-ray crystallography to determine the shapes of these enzymes. We found that many of them were a nearly perfect match to what we digitally designed.

Our findings mark a key advance in enzyme design, highlighting how AI can help scientists start to tackle complex problems. Machine learning tools could help more researchers access enzyme design and tap into the full potential of enzymes to solve modern-day problems.

(Sam Pellock, University of Washington, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Anti-inflammatory pills

Reduces dementia risk

Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medications may decrease the risk of developing dementia, claimed a study on Wednesday.

Inflammation aggravates dementia

Previous research has suggested that inflammation may contribute to the development and progression of dementia. The NSAID medications, with their anti-inflammatory effects, can help protect against dementia -- which affects more than 55 million people worldwide.

"Our study provides evidence on possible preventive effects of anti-inflammatory medication against the dementia process," said M. Arfan Ikram, Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam, in the Netherlands.

Only in long-term use

The results, published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, showed that long-term NSAID use was associated with a 12 per cent reduced risk of developing dementia. Short- and intermediate-term use did not provide benefits. Also, the cumulative dose of NSAIDs was not associated with decreased dementia risk, the team said.

The findings suggest that prolonged, rather than intensive, use of anti-inflammatory medications may help protect against dementia. "There is a need for more studies to further consolidate this evidence and possibly develop preventive strategies," Ikram said.

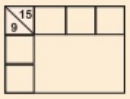
Infection triggers dementia

A recent study published in the journal Alzheimer's and Dementia: Translational Research & Clinical Interventions, that looked at health data from over 130 million individuals showed that antibiotics, antivirals, vaccinations, and anti-inflammatory medication are associated with reduced risk of dementia. This finding supports the hypothesis that common dementias may be triggered by viral or bacterial infections. According to data from the World Health Organization, every year, there are nearly 10 million new cases of dementia -- currently the seventh leading cause of death among older people globally.

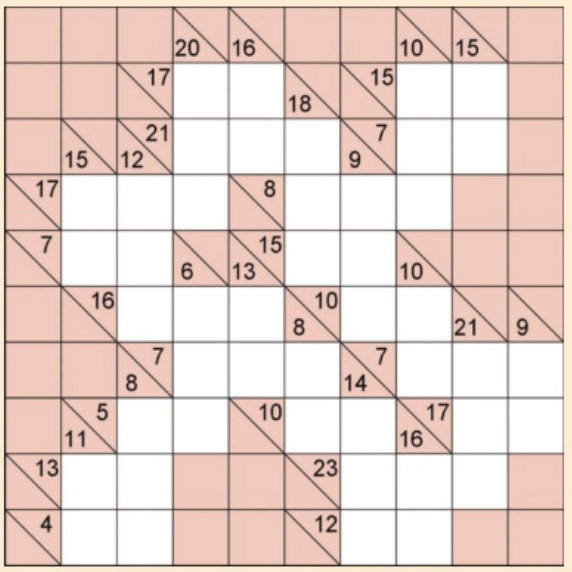
—IANS

Kakuro

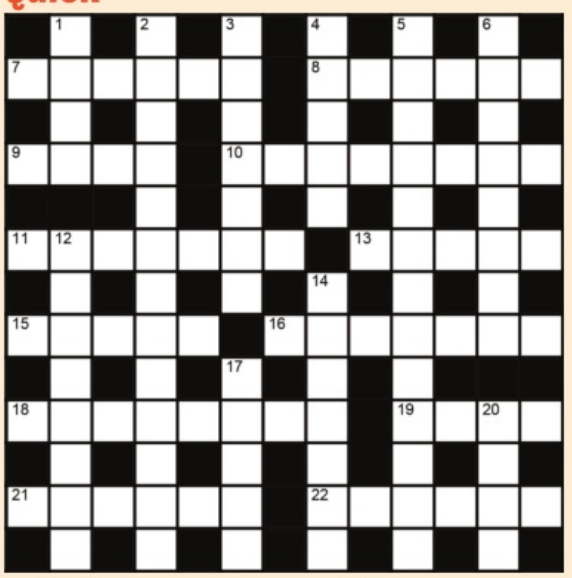
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Golf club (6)
8 Spice or enliven (6)
9 Repair or darn (4)
10 Area popular with shoppers (8)
11 In Buddhism, the state of enlightenment (7)
13 Cold-shoulders (5)
15 Mature person (5)
16 Soft furnishings (7)
18 Gymnasts (8)
19 Desktop symbol (4)
21 As a precaution (2,4)
22 Baltic state, capital Riga (6)

DOWN

1 US college (4)
2 Trouble to be expected? (3,5,2,3)
3 Decline (7)
4 Savoury jelly (5)
5 Items or ideas for discussion (7,6)
6 11th month of the year (8)
12 Offensive to common modesty (8)
14 Stiff hair (7)
17 Cut up some wood? (5)
20 Foul smelling (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS G

XU HPKZV LZIXRKZV KZXU IUAP FKMC, KBLVKZC XRLX KX'E LFPCLGI XRCPC.

Linemaro

I would trust you with my gmail password

Mindchow

Every burned book or house enlightens the world; every suppressed or expunged word reverberates through the earth from side to side

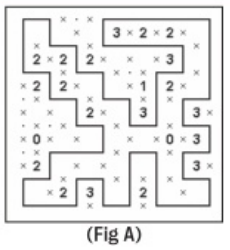
Joke of the day

My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down

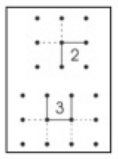
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

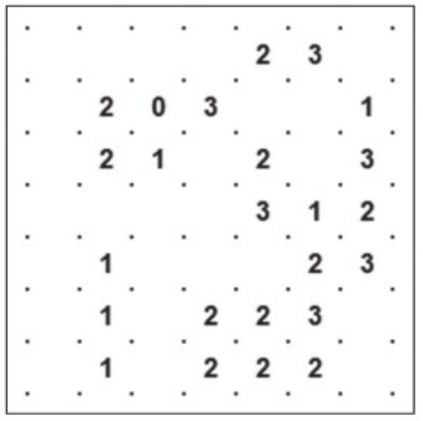


(Fig B) Not Allowed

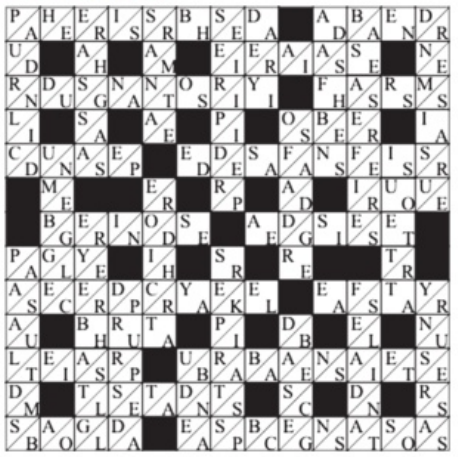
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



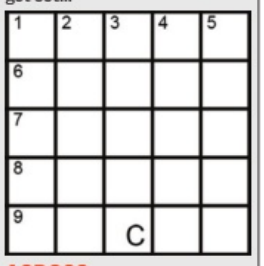
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

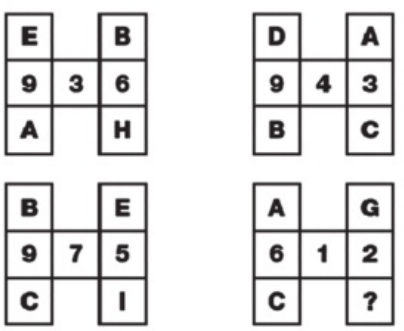
1 Air ma; 6 Mauls;
7 Is min; 8 I bade;
9 Cess I

DOWN

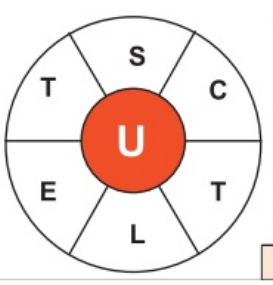
1 As Mam; 2 Bail I;
3 Incur; 4 I dime;
5 SS Sea

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; **07** Good; **09** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9				3		5		
8			2	7		3		4
			5	1				
3						1		
2		6		4		8		7
		5						3
				8	1			
6		3		9	5			1
		4		2				6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

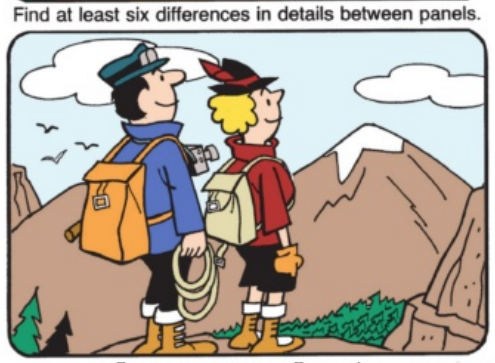
Easy = 2
5 5 7 9

Medium = 4
5 6 7 8

Hard = 11
4 4 5 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



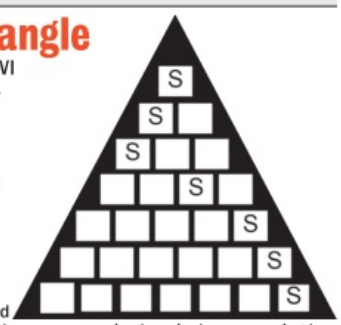
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Buckle is added to backpack. 3. Snowcap is different. 4. Tree is moved. 5. Feather in cap is larger. 6. Shorts are longer.

Riddler

A dagger of no metal forged, aiming at the world's heart. Years and years to craft this blade, an elemental art. No man makes it yet it's made with water from on high. A dagger that no man will wield, hidden from the sky. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number XVI
2 South East, abbr.
3 Harden
4 Bird's home
5 Looks after
6 Mixes together
7 Fair-haired ones

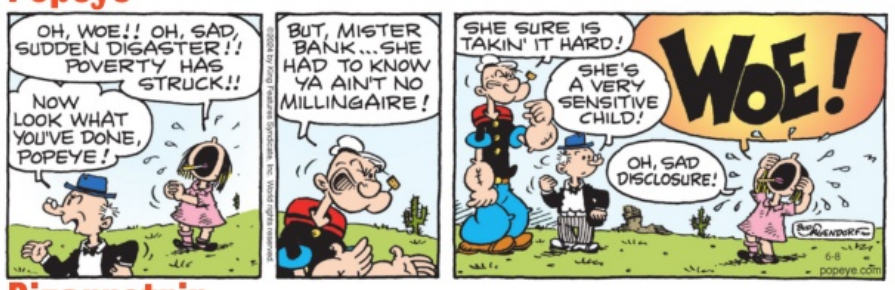


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

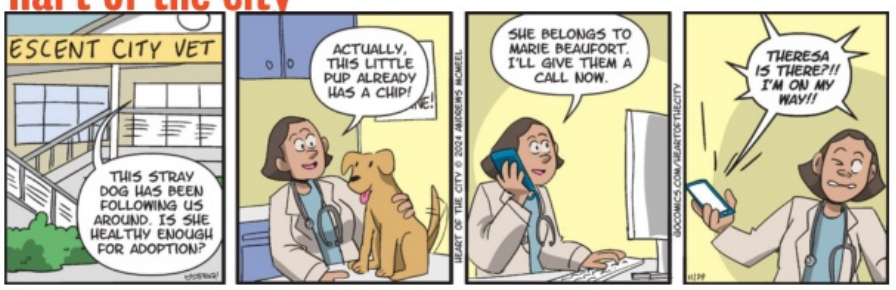
Popeye


OH, WOE!! OH, SAD, SUDDEN DISASTER!! POVERTY HAS STRUCK!!
NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE, POPEYE!
BUT, MISTER BANK...SHE HAD TO KNOW YA AIN'T NO MILLINGAIRE!
SHE SURE IS TAKIN' IT HARD!
SHE'S A VERY SENSITIVE CHILD!
WOE!
OH, SAD DISCLOSURE!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


ESCENT CITY VET
THIS STRAY DOG HAS BEEN FOLLOWING US AROUND. IS SHE HEALTHY ENOUGH FOR ADOPTION?
ACTUALLY, THIS LITTLE PUP ALREADY HAS A CHIP!
SHE BELONGS TO MARIE BEAUFORT. I'LL GIVE THEM A CALL NOW.
THERESA IS THERE?!! I'M ON MY WAY!!

Crankshaft

WELL, THERE GOES THE GAME!
IT'S TOO BAD THAT YOUNG RUNNER WE DRAFTED CAN'T HANG ON TO THE BALL!
OH, WELL... THAT'S THE WAY THE ROOKIE FUMBLES!

Mutts

Giving Thanks
LITTLE PINK SOCK ♫ LITTLE PINK SOCK MMMM ♫
WHAT'S WITH MOOCH AND THAT SOCK TODAY!?!
I DIPPED IT IN THE GRAVY.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the Moon and Mars, making you feel enthusiastic and energetic. You may initiate new innovations in business, which could lead to growth in the near future. Creativity will guide you in planning renovations at home or the office. Additionally, your network may strengthen, opening up new opportunities.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Family matters will take up most of your time today. You may hear good news from loved ones and focus on your children's academics and health, which will likely be under control. However, be mindful of your words—politeness is key to avoiding unnecessary arguments with those around you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Happiness and inner vitality will boost your self-confidence today. Avoid delays in making decisions related to finances, career, or academics. There might be some self-respect issues with your spouse, so patience will help maintain harmony. Lovebirds may consider taking a short trip together.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today may feel challenging, as you experience dullness and dissatisfaction. Be cautious of hidden enemies or conspiracies. Avoid harsh words, as they could lead to legal troubles. Risky investments should be avoided for now. Staying mindful and alert will help you navigate the day safely.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Happiness and enthusiasm define your day. A new partnership may be on the horizon, potentially boosting your business. Your dedication at work will likely be appreciated by seniors, and promotions or incentives could be in store. Job seekers may find promising opportunities, and singles may meet their soulmate with the help of relatives.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You will be busy with work today, and your patience and dedication will be tested. Stay focused, as perseverance will bring rewards. Investments in fixed assets may be considered, as long as they align with your long-term goals. Success will come with consistent effort.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Destiny seems to be on your side, making success come more easily today. A visit to a religious place may bring you inner peace. You might feel drawn to learning intellectual or occult knowledge. Students will perform well, and singles may find a suitable match. Lovebirds could make important marriage-related decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may feel dull today and should be cautious of opponents and rivals. Avoid arguments with seniors, as they may lead to unnecessary complications. Investments in fixed assets should be postponed to prevent losses. Lovebirds should steer clear of trivial disputes to maintain harmony in their relationship.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Family time will bring joy today. Romantic moments with your spouse will strengthen your bond, and you may consider redecorating your home. Social gatherings and parties could be enjoyable. However, be cautious and thoroughly read any documents before investing in fixed assets.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A sense of happiness and energy will drive you today. Self-exploration and analysis will boost your confidence, making you fearless and courageous in facing challenges. Patience is advised when making financial decisions in business. Lovebirds will have a pleasant day together.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your enthusiasm will be at its peak today, but it's important to regulate it wisely. Self-analysis will enhance your confidence and social reputation. Strong communication skills will help resolve problems effectively. Investors should avoid speculation, and you may also consider pursuing higher studies for career growth.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Work and family life may not be as enjoyable today. Avoid arrogance and ego in your relationship, as they could weaken emotional bonds. Issues in partnerships may be resolved with patience. Singles should avoid rushing into marriage decisions. Staying calm will help you navigate tricky situations successfully.

KIDZONE

Medha Jahnavi R, Bengaluru

Meera N, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(√74+(√44+(√22+√9))) = (√74+(√44+(√25))) = (√74+(√49)) = (√81) = 9

BULL'S EYE
Clue, cult, cute, cutest, cutlet, lust, lute, SCUTTLE, suet

STRIKE OUT

P	E	R	I	S	H	E
I	A	E	I	O	E	R
N	U	G	A	T	O	R
C	U	S	P	D	E	A
S	O	L	D	A	S	B

A	B	E	D	E	S	T
E	A	N	T	C	N	R
A	R	B	A	N	I	T
A	B	U	T	I	D	L
L	E	A	P	U	R	B

S	E	E	D	C	A	K
P	L	Y	I	S	E	R
B	E	N	D	S	A	G
M	E	R	A	R	U	E
C	U	S	P	D	E	A

E	A	R	S	E	E	S
H	A	R	M	E	D	A
O	E	R	I	S	H	E
T	O	R	Y	H	A	R
A	T	O	R	N	U	G

A	B	E	D	E	S	T
S	E	A	S	O	N	S
E	A	S	O	N	S	
S	E	A	R	C	H	
M	A	S	H	I	E	

FAST FIVE

M	A	R	I	A
A	L	U	M	S
A	B	I	D	E
M	I	N	I	S
S	I	C	E	S

RIDDLER Stalactite

QUOTE UNCODE
To bring anything into your life, imagine that it's already there.

QUICK

T	Y	D	E	S	D	
I	N	C	A	S	E	L
E	P	W	T	N	L	
A	C	R	O	B	A	T
E	T	S	I	O		
A	D	U	L	T	D	R
N	I	R	V	A	N	A
M	E	N	D			
L	E	S				
M	E	N	D	C	H	I
E			C	I	M	
B	E	N	D	S	A	G
	I	T	B	G	E	

MENSA PUZZLE
F. In each diagram, convert each letter to its numerical value, and read the top and bottom pairs of letters as complete 2 digit values. Multiply these values together to give the 3 digit result written in the centre spaces.

9	6	7	8	3	4	5
8	5	1	2	7	6	3
4	3	2	5	1	9	6
3	4	8	7	5	2	1
2	9	6	1	4	3	8
1	7	5	9	6	8	2
7	2	9	6	8	1	4
6	8	3	4	9	5	7
5	1	4	3	2	7	9

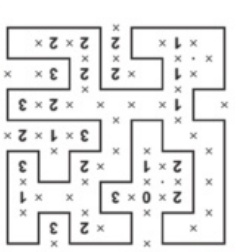
SUDOKU

5	1	4	3	2	7	9
6	8	3	4	9	5	7
7	2	9	6	8	1	4
1	7	5	9	6	8	2
2	9	6	1	4	3	8
3	4	8	7	5	2	1
8	5	1	2	7	6	3
4	3	2	5	1	9	6
9	6	7	8	3	4	5

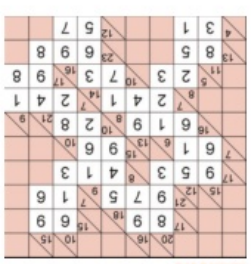
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, SE, Set, Nest, tends, Blends, Blondes .

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 5 – 7 – 5 = 2
Medium
7 + 8 – 6 – 5 = 4
Hard
4 x 5 – 4 – 5 = 11

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Single era
"I've been entering my single era": 'Bridgerton' fame Simone Ashley confirms her breakup with Tino Klein

Enough already

Netizens annoyed with constant link-up rumours around Kartik and his co-stars

Kartik Aaryan has been in the spotlight for his transformed look in Anurag Basu's upcoming film, initially planned as Aashiqui 3.

Playing an intense rockstar, he underwent a major makeover. The teaser was released in February 2025. Kartik recently hosted a celebration for his sister, Dr Kritika Tiwari, where actress Sreeleela was also spotted. Her presence sparked speculation about their bond beyond the film. Kartik will be seen romancing Pushpa 2 star Sreeleela in the untitled Aashiqui sequel The film will be Sreeleela's Bollywood debut and is set to release on Diwali this year. In a viral video, she was seen dancing with guests while Kartik stood behind her, recording on his phone. She began doing her Kissik hook step from Pushpa 2 but quickly stopped, blushing, when she realized Mast Qalandar was playing. Kartik burst into laughter at the moment. Rumours about Kartik and Sreeleela dating soon spread online.

However, some fans were unhappy with the constant speculation about his co-stars. One user on Reddit even criticized Kartik's PR team for repeatedly linking him to every actress he works with.

The post was captioned, '"Kartik's PR, if you're reading this, pls, pls chill for the sake of his career; linking him up for every single one of his co-stars is getting irritating now.' While one user wrote, 'His PR needs to come up with some good strategy as this is now way too irritating!', another one added, 'Before every film, he gets linked to his co-star. It was Sara, Kriti, now Sreeleela and lots more to go.'

—ETimes

Mom-to-be exits from Don 3

Bollywood actress Kiara Advani, known for her versatility and charm, recently announced that she and her husband, actor Sidharth Malhotra, are expecting their first child. The couple shared the happy news with fans through a heartfelt social media post, featuring a pair of tiny knitted booties held in their hands.

Following the announcement, Kiara made her first public appearance, where she accepted congratulations from fans and paparazzi. Her radiant glow captured everyone's attention.

According to a Pinkvilla report, Kiara has decided to focus on her personal life, leading to her amicable exit from Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 3.' The filmmakers are now searching for a new lead actress. However, she remains committed to her ongoing projects, 'War 2' and 'Toxic,' which she is expected to complete before her break. Speculations are abuzz about her involvement in two major upcoming films, 'Shakti Shalini' and 'Dhoom 4.' — ETimes

Simple life

Parineeti Chopra may have achieved stardom now and may be living a luxurious life, but the actress has recently opened up on how she grew up amidst a lot of financial struggles. The actress was living in Ambala as a child and in a recent interview she revealed how simple life was as she and her brother grew up with very little. She also opened up on the financial struggles of her parents.

She said during a chat with Mashable Middle East that her parents gave her a very good mindset. "We actually grew up with very very less," said Parineeti, further adding, "I have seen struggle of my parents where they used to not have money for a birthday cake for me and my dad used to go to the market and buy one piece of rasgulla, just a piece not a kilo, one piece of rasgulla for rasmalai and we used to cut that rasmalai like a birthday cake."

However, Parineeti's grandparents were extremely well to do. So, they would fly Parineeti and her brother there

for summer vacations every year where they would live a luxurious life. "My grandparents, who used to live in Kenya, they were very affluent. So I used to go from Ambala, where we had almost nothing, and I used to go and live this luxurious life for 2 months every year because I used to go for my summer vacations." —ETimes

Starry paycheck

Tamannaah Bhatia is one of India's most renowned actresses, known for her versatility in both films and web series. Over the years, she has carved a niche for herself in the industry with a successful career spanning multiple languages, including Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.

Beyond her cinematic success, Tamannaah's personal life has often been in the spotlight. After months of dating, she and actor Vijay Varma have reportedly parted ways, marking the end of their much-discussed relationship. While neither has publicly addressed the breakup, fans have taken to social media to express their support for the actress. Meanwhile, Tamannaah is celebrating 20 years in the film industry, with admirers and celebrities showering her with heartfelt wishes, reflecting her enduring popularity.

Apart from her film career, Tamannaah has also built an impressive financial portfolio. Reports suggest that her net worth exceeds Rs 120 crore, with her remuneration for films ranging between Rs 4 crore and Rs 5 crore per project as per Cine Ulagam. She owns luxurious properties, including a home valued between Rs 16 crore and Rs 20 crore, and an apartment in Mumbai worth Rs 7 crore. Additionally, her love for luxury cars is evident in her collection, which includes a BMW 320i, a Mercedes-Benz, a Mitsubishi Pajero Sport, and a Land Rover Range Rover Discovery Sport.—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Teacher, now actor

Sukesh aka Sukhi from Hosahalli near Magadi worked as a lecturer for seven years before taking a call to pursue his passion for movies. Sukhi is excited about the release of his maiden movie Interval. Sukhi plays one of the leads in the film besides writing its script, screenplay, and dialogues.

"My passion for movies made me quit my job. Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar is my inspiration. I watched Puneeth Rajkumar's movies Anna Bond and Jackie. I struggled a lot while facing the camera for Interval. Director Bharatvarsh helped me during the shooting," said Sukhi.

He said the incidents at college and surrounding areas inspired him to write the script for Interval. "I have worked for one-and-half years on the script. I took Bharatvarsh's help to improve the screenplay," he said, adding that he plays the hero's friend in the movie. Interval is bankrolled under the Bharatvarsh Pictures banner by Sukhi and Bharath and is set for release on March 7.

Ode to forests

The team of Vanya is very happy to have Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar unveil the movie's title poster. They consider it as the first victory in their journey in Sandalwood.

Vanya is directed by Badiger Devendra from Koppal. He is known for the movies Rudri and IN. Vanya is being bankrolled by Pallavi Ananth under the Idea Works Motion Pictures banner.

"A news article published in an English magazine in 2010 is the inspiration for me two write the script for this movie. My friend Lathan helped me complete the script work. The movie is about a father and his daughter who work hard to save the forest from timber smugglers and greedy politicians," said Badiger Devendra.

The director said the movie has the potential to reach as many audiences as possible. "Our aim is to screen this movie at a number of film festivals as its content has universal appeal. The specialty of the movie is that it is shot in sync sound," the director said.

He said that national award winner Vijanath Biradar plays the father while Meghana Belawadi plays the daughter in the movie. The movie also features Prakash Belawadi, Srikanth, Yashwant Kuchabale and others.